



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Piggott
LEA Number:	1104
Superintendent:	Freddie Bowen
Email:	freddie.bowen@piggottschoools.net
Contact for Waiver:	Freddie Bowen
Contact Email:	freddie.bowen@piggottschoools.net
Contact Phone:	870.598.2572
Date Received by DESE:	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

1. Board resolution approving the waiver request
2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families

Waiver Request #1

Topic:	School Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	Five years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades, or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers

1. Provide a **DETAILED RATIONALE** explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation, or increase equitable access to effective teachers. Include information about the problem or obstacle; if any, the waiver will help the district overcome.

The member school districts of the Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative are collectively and separately requesting a waiver from A.C.A. 6-10-106, which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 19. For the 2024-2025 school year, it will be Monday, August 19, 2024.

We respectfully request a waiver to allow the Piggott School District to set their start date “no earlier” than August 12 for each of the next five school years.

The advantages of the early start option include the following:

1. It gives us a greater chance of having more instructional time before state testing, even in years when we miss a significant number of days due to inclement weather.
2. It allows us to begin in mid-August when students and staff are eager to return to the new year and complete the year by the end of May before many of the summer activities begin in early June.
3. It provides a greater balance between the number of days in the first and second semesters of the school year.

2. Provide a detailed explanation of how the services being waived will be provided for students.

The requested waiver will not impact the calendar length chosen by the Piggott School District. It will only provide the flexibility to begin the school year earlier, providing the above advantages to students, staff, and parents. The services provided to our students will be the same as those supplied without waiver approval regarding days and/or hours of instruction.

3. Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver.

The district will monitor the following items: 1) # of instructional days or hours gained in advance of state testing by starting earlier, 2) student and staff attendance on those dates, and 3) state test results to try and determine what correlation exists between achievement results and instruction time before testing.

Piggott School District
429 East Main Street
Piggott, AR 72454
February 13, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF The Piggott School District AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the Piggott School District Board of Directors is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students within the district;

WHEREAS, certain circumstances or regulations may require the district to seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district;

WHEREAS, a waiver from A.C.A 6-10-106, which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 19. For the 2024-2025 school year that date will be Monday, August 19, 2024;

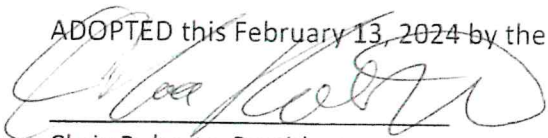
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Piggott School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver that allows the district administration to formally request a waiver allowing the district’s first day of class to be “no earlier than Monday, August 12”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the relevant authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors expresses its support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

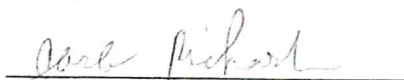
This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this February 13, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Piggott School District.



Chris Roberts, President
Piggott School District Board of Directors

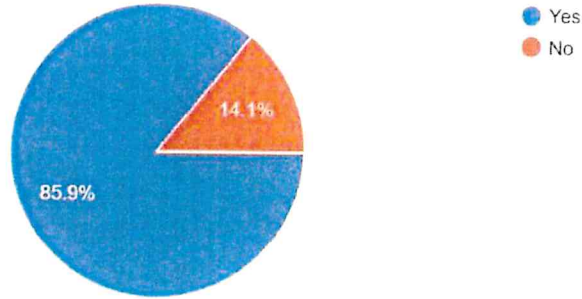
ATTEST:



Jacob Richardson, Secretary
Piggott School District Board of Directors

Would you support the school's efforts in seeking a waiver to start school as early as August 12, 2024, in place of August 19, 2024?

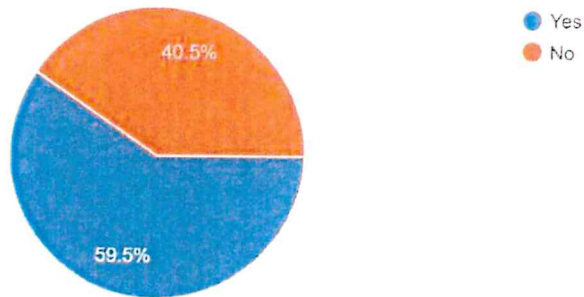
85 responses



Piggott School District vote tally: 73 of 85 Yes
12 of 85 No

Would you support the school's efforts in seeking a waiver to start school as early as August 12, 2024, in place of August 19, 2024?

121 responses



Piggott Community vote tally: 72 of 121 Yes
49 of 121 No